

Winter 2008

## International Panther, Winter 2008

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program.

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# International Panther

Winter 2008

## The Culture and Intensive English Program Newsletter

### About the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP)

The Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) of the University of Northern Iowa is an institution that was established in 1982 and is currently housed in the Office of International Programs. The CIEP is designed to prepare students for academic work at the undergraduate or graduate degree level. Students participate in Listening/Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Grammar classes; which are offered at seven different levels. Sessions last eight weeks and, with adequate progress, students advance one level per session.

The overall mission of the Culture and Intensive English Program is *to provide nonnative speakers of English with intensive English-language instruction and a cultural, social, and academic orientation to the United States.*

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) has many honors. UNI was named one of the "Best in the Midwest" in the 2006 *Princeton Review Best 351 College Rankings* guide and was ranked second in the Midwest top public comprehensive universities by *U.S. News and World Report* for eleven consecutive years.

### From the Director

Dear Reader:

Recently, I visited Japan. The best part of the trip was visiting staff and many former exchange students at Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata City, Osaka Prefecture. The students had fond memories of our campus and life in Iowa. It was interesting to learn about their lives since leaving Iowa and graduating from their university. Some former students have become English teachers, others work in business, and some are married. It amazed me how quickly their lives continue and change after leaving Iowa.



My visit with our former students also made me think about how quickly time passes. Sometimes students complain about the weather or food or some other symptom of culture shock in America. However, these things are soon forgotten when they return home. Instead, former students, like those I met in Japan, remember friends, small adventures, the Iowa landscape and other fond memories of life overseas. Therefore, we should try to remember that time does go by quickly and that we should value each day before it is gone and we continue on our way.

*Philip Poudre*

### What CIEP Students Say...

The first couple weeks in the United States were challenging for Jia Long Chu, 20, a student from Dalian, China. When he looks back on those days, Chu can see how much progress he has made.

"Listening was the hardest part," said Chu. "When I first came here, I couldn't understand all the things that others said. Now it's much better." After one semester of all English courses, Chu was able to take one academic course in addition to his studies in the Culture Intensive English Program. His course called "Circuit Analysis" will help him work toward a degree in Electric Information Engineering Technology. While the lab was new for him, Chu has no problem keeping up with the class. He said the skills he gained through the CIEP help him with class everyday. "My academic class doesn't use too much writing, but I use the comprehension and reading," he said.

Out of all his CIEP studies, Chu felt he developed the most in Listening and speaking class and reading class. His teachers, Tom Reidmiller and Marlon Perez, made class an enjoyable experience. "They like to have the students participate in the class," he said. In addition to English skills, Chu learned a lot about American culture through other activities such as a field trip to Amana Colonies and conversation partners. The Conversation Partner program allowed him to meet weekly with three different American students, which helped Chu to gain confidence in speaking.

For future CIEP students, Chu recommended students practice listening, read about American culture and prepare to study hard. "The CIEP program is good," he said. "You should prepare for a different environment, different skills and a different education program. Just come and enjoy it."





## Former Student Profile



Mohammed Al Baharnah began his studies in the United States at the University of Northern Iowa's Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP). While in Saudi Arabia, Mohammed applied and was accepted for a scholarship which allowed him to earn an education in the United States. Without the scholarship, Mohammed feels he would not have been given the chance to study at UNI nor become the president of the well-established Saudi Club on UNI's campus. It was CIEP's small class size and great faculty members, who were always willing to help, that enabled Mohammed to improve his English skills. Through inten-

sive study in speaking, writing, and reading and interaction with native speakers, he was able to use the English skills that he learned to help him succeed in his university studies. Mohammed has lived in the United States for three years and is currently working on a computer science degree at UNI.

In April 2008, Mohammed was voted the 3rd president of the Saudi Club. As president, Mohammed is excited to continue the exchange of ideas and cultures between Saudi and U.S. American students and faculty. The Saudi Club was established in January 2006, and has grown to approximately 80 members. To date, the club has brought increased attention to the relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia through the Saudi exhibit in 2006 which focused on culture and civilization of Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi conference in 2007 which focused on relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Mohammed suggests that future international students combine the CIEP's education with self-directed studies of their own through movies, books, and interaction with native speakers to learn more about the English language and culture. While Mohammed was taking classes at the CIEP, he also worked on-campus. He feels that interaction with native speakers, English classes, and self-directed study is the ultimate combination for successful language learning.

## Welcome to the CIEP!

Each session, the CIEP has the pleasure of meeting many new students that join the program. During the 2008 fall sessions, the CIEP welcomed the following 45 new students!

Brazil:	Indonesia:	Jordan:	Saudi Arabia:	South Korea:
Eduardo Ames	Reginald Sudarta	Raed Alwaqfi	Abdullah Alsheddi	Jungho Lee
Laci Ames			Khaled Al-Ahmed	Ju Young Lee
	Japan:	Kenya:	Nwaf Albughubar	Sang Yub Lee
China:	Mika Matsumoto	Kevin Kamau	Ahmed Almahuzi	Kyungyul Min
Jin Dai	Ayako Mukai		Mustafa Almustafa	Seunghwan Ryu
Menga Liang	Chiaki Naito	Mexico:	Mohanad Almarhoon	
Dan Lin	Noriko Ogawa	Brenda Aranda	Huda Alrabia	Taiwan:
Quihoa Lin	Nao Sato	Claudia Gonzalez	Zahra Aluraif	Shang-Hung Tsai
Yuan Li	Asano Yamada	Veronica Ledesma	Naif Alsudaais	Wendell Tsai
Ying Wang	ShujiroYoshida		Fadel Alhajhouj	
Xiaoya Zhang			Hussain Almeer	Tibet:
			Nasser Alesmail	Dangzengji Fnu
Colombia:			Naji Alghoubari	Rinzin Namgyal
Luisa Carvajal			Sakhr Alfariis	

## Fall CIEP Activities

### Farm Day

At the beginning of September, CIEP students had a day to have fun on an Iowa farm. Hay wagon riding and canoeing were some of the activities they enjoyed. You can tell from their smiles in the picture.



### Football Game at the UNI Dome

CIEP students can attend all the athletic events held by the University of Northern Iowa. In September the activities coordinator and CIEP students attended a home football game. The students helped cheer on the UNI panthers to victory!

### Field Trip to Amana Colonies

CIEP students visited the Amana Colonies in Eastern Iowa on October 3rd. There are seven villages in the Colonies each built by German settlers. The CIEP students visited the historical buildings and ate lunch at a German restaurant. As you can see from the picture the students were introduced to the clothing and lifestyle of the settlers from 150 years ago.



### Field Trip to Des Moines

In November, the CIEP students visited the Capitol of Iowa in Des Moines. Students were given a tour of the State capitol building. Then they went on to Terrace Hill mansion which was built by the state's first millionaire. It now serves as the Governor's residence and includes a museum.

### Thanksgiving Potluck

In November, host families prepared traditional holiday food for a Thanksgiving Potluck. Students enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing and pumpkin pie while spending time with their families and friends. Each person said one thing they were thankful for and dropped a piece of candy into a big jar.





## International Education Week

The panel discussion: Teaching & Working with International Students and the Taste of Culture were two of the CIEP's contributions to the International Education Week celebration on Campus from Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The International Education Week was an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange



worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of International Programs at UNI is part of an effort to promote agendas that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.

The main goal of the panel was to open a discussion of Halls classification of cultures as it relates to teaching and working with international students. The panel included Philip Plourde, the CIEP Director; Tom Riedmiller, Academic Support Specialist; Marlon Perez, Academic Support Specialist; Marina Durinova, CIEP Intern; Carol Johnston, Academic Support Specialist; Mike Williams, Academic Support Specialist and Shefei

Zhao, Former CIEP student.

The last event the CIEP hosted was the Taste of Culture. At which UNI students and staff were treated to traditional Mexican, Saudi Arabian, Asian, Japanese, Chinese, Tibetan, Korean, and Russian food. CIEP students assisted faculty and students with dressing in traditional clothing from their cultures and presented some musical performances. The audience also had the opportunity to see their names written in Arabic, Japanese, Korean and Chinese. The purpose of this event was to see various cultures as belonging to a single world and not as separate entities. The atmosphere of the event was lively and engaging. It was a great success!



## Fall CIEP Graduation



CONGRATULATIONS to the Fall 2008 CIEP graduate!

On October 20, 2008, the CIEP hosted its Fall graduation ceremony at the Center for Multicultural Education and presented the following student with her CIEP Certificate of Completion!

**Russia:**  
**Maria Nifakina**



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